

Development Services Department  
Building Safety Division

**To: Whom it may concern**

**Subject: Underground Cable, Pipes, and Conduit**

This is to inform you that a new state law was passed last year that affects all underground facility installations on real property performed after December 31, 2005. The law also mandates that the City of Tempe enforce these requirements.

This new law requires buried nonmetallic piping, cables, and conduits, installed on private property, to be detectible (metallic) or have a detectible underground location device (tracer wire) attached to it. This includes, but is not be limited to, the installation of nonmetallic underground facilities such as:

- Nonmetallic communication cable, nonmetallic water lines, nonmetallic sewer lines, and nonmetallic gas lines.
- Nonmetallic landscape irrigation sprinkler piping greater than 2" in diameter.
- Any cable, pipe, or conduit which conveys, or is designed to convey, water, sewage, gas, oil, chilled water, refrigerants, swimming pool water, and steam.
- It also includes empty nonmetallic pipes and conduits.

**Therefore, effective immediately, all underground cable, pipe, and conduits shall be detectible (metallic) or have a detectible underground location device installed with it. The recommended detectible underground location device is a #18 or larger copper tracer wire securely attached to the nonmetallic cable, pipe, or conduit at 8' o.c. It shall have 12" of tracer wire accessible above grade at any above grade termination.**

**Construction plans and associated documents must clearly depict conformance with this state law prior to approval and permit issuance by the City of Tempe or have a copy of this letter attached to the plans. The Tempe Building Inspector will verify compliance, in the field, prior to inspection approval and sign off of the underground facility.**

**Note: These requirements pertain to underground facilities on private property and are the responsibility of the owner of the private property. Requirements for underground facilities within the public right of way will continue to be regulated and inspected by the Engineering Department.**

Arizona State Statute References: § 40-360.21 Definitions, 2. 5. & 17. § 40-360.22, J.

<http://www.azleg.state.az.us>

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